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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, 5630
Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

April 28, 1999


To whom it may concern:


Re: Docket #98N-1038
"Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food"

As citizens who want to know what we are eating, we read labels to know and understand the ingredients, we ask how the food has been grown, and we study the processing the food has gone through. As educated consumers **we demand prominent labeling of irradiated foods**. This includes the use of the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" along with the use of the radura symbol. Alternative terms are deceptive and do not clearly indicate what process has been used on the food being purchased. Irradiation changes the food at a basic level including nutritional content, taste, and texture. Any deviation from total clarity in labeling is misleading. People need to be aware of what processes their food has been subject to so they can make educated decisions on what food they purchase.

Each of us work in the health field and are aware of the underlying risks of irradiated food. We believe this is a risky technology that will mask more dangerous bacteria, further erode the nutritional quality of our food and the fragility of our environment. We insist a firm policy of labeling be put into place. **The labeling of irradiated foods should be permanent and not expire at some time in the future.** Only this will ensure that people have the choice to distinguish food that has been irradiated and that a separation will be maintained between food that is irradiated and food that is not. It will become more difficult to distinguish and have a true choice if clear labels are not maintained.

Sincerely,


Julene T. Weaver


John E. Perkins

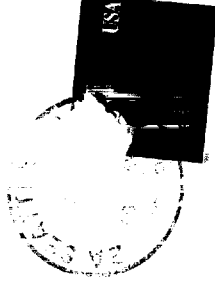
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KEEP THE CHANGE

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